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comment on the French revolution, "*Ca ira*, it goes." The best test of a successful work is, after all, the ability of its author to marshal his details and to move from one conclusion or demonstration to another in an orderly manner. This is what the work on North American colonization does through every chapter, leaving the reader with a clear conception of one of the most complicated phases of American history. In point of general construction the work is admirably adapted to class use. The maps are not all new but each is exactly suited to the needs of that portion of the text it is designed to illustrate. The bibliographical notes are well selected for actual use and the index is especially well arranged. Altogether this new venture is well adapted at every point to convince and persuade a large and influential constituency of scholars and general readers that its methods are fully justified by results and that a new field for scholarship has definitely been opened for future work.

O. G. LIBBY

The Illinois country. 1673-1818. By Clarence Walworth Alvord. [*Centennial history of Illinois*, volume I] (Springfield: Illinois centennial commission, 1920. 523 p.)

The first volume of the *Centennial history of Illinois* was assigned to Dr. Alvord as the editor of a remarkable series of volumes including a mass of original documents bearing on the early history of the Illinois country. With the production of the present work the author brings to a close a piece of historical research that has placed him among the foremost historians of the middle west.

Histories of single states have multiplied in recent years, but seldom has the initial volume of a state history been produced under such favorable auspices as has this one. The author has been associated with historical research for so many years that he has built up at his university a historical seminar of unusual quality and one the graduates of which have each made valuable contributions in the field of research. What must be to Dr. Alvord one of the most gratifying features of this present piece of work is the fact that many of those who gave him the most valuable assistance were those whom he had himself trained in research and without whose aid his labors must necessarily have been very much prolonged. Seminar collaboration at its best is by no means common and the author is certainly to be congratulated upon being able to focus so successfully the finest product of his years of teaching upon the difficult problems of research.

In compressing into the compass of a single volume the mass of material already assembled and published in earlier works, the author has never lost sight of his subject. He has, also, avoided producing merely a learned treatise; on the contrary, every effort has been made to interpret and present the pre-state history of Illinois for the general reader as well

as for the research student. The reader is presented with a clear picture of the Illinois country as a home for shifting and warring Indian tribes harried on the east by the ambitious and scheming Iroquois while held in check on the west by the powerful Dakota confederacy. Then follows a sketch of the operations of the fur-traders and the far-reaching plans for the opening of the Mississippi and the Spanish and English intrigues with the tribes of the southwest directed against this imperial plan for colonial expansion. Nor is the author less skillful in making plain the complicated intrigue involved in the efforts of the Quebec and New Orleans authorities, each in their own way to monopolize the increasing power and wealth as well as the strategic advantages of this middle colony of France in America. All these phases of earliest Illinois history are presented with a skill and precision which can come only from that intimate mastery of detail acquired in the toilsome editing of texts and in the impartial sifting of evidence in the mass of hitherto unknown manuscripts. With equal skill and a full grasp of the larger phases of the subject, the author connects the story of this region with European affairs, giving for the first time a clear-cut picture of Illinois as a colony of France and later of England, so that there remains with us as vivid a conception of the problems of trade, religion, government, and Indian affairs for this far-away western colony as we have hitherto possessed for such better-known colonies as Virginia, Pennsylvania, or Massachusetts.

The importance of the Illinois country in the events leading up to and during the American revolution is discussed with the proper perspective of the English ministerial policy and the antagonistic attitude of the coast colonies toward any interference with their charter rights to western lands. In the average text of United States history this entire period of Illinois history down to the war of 1812 is given but scant and perfunctory attention. There is obviously so much that is new and vitally important in what is presented in this work that it is evident that our writers must in the future give more space to the national aspects of this portion of our early history, even to the exclusion of much classic but otherwise unimportant material that has so long cumbered our text-books and manuals of United States history.

Dr. Alvord has been successful also in bringing the Illinois colony into vital connection with the movement of emigration from the eastern colonies over the Appalachian mountains. He has, undoubtedly, given less attention than is justified by the facts to the migration by way of Cumberland Gap and the river valleys of western Tennessee. But after reading his chapters on "The struggle for the west" and "The country of the Illinois" we can accept his demonstration that there was an actual incorporation of this section of the west into the life of the nation and that this inclusion of the Illinois country had an important influence in the

evolution of our national territorial policy. The placing of this new colony among our pioneer communities makes it necessary to enlarge considerably our already large list of western national characters. It is clear that we must find a place for a few of those French traders and priests who founded these early settlements and some of the commandants of early posts are equally worthy of mention. We can no longer ignore, moreover, the claims of the leading merchants at Kaskaskia, Cahokia, and Vincennes, nor those of the early American traders and merchants who entered the Illinois country before George Rogers Clark and paved the way for his conquest of the British posts. In one respect the volume is somewhat disappointing. There are no maps showing the later surveys and the locations of early forts, trading posts, and missions. The map of the Illinois country opposite page 154 should be supplemented by one or two maps of Illinois and the entire Ohio valley showing these important points. This would enable students of the early history of this region to trace readily the narrative of events and to find upon maps accessible in any library the location of all the historic places given in the present work.

From the point of view of research in the middle west this volume holds a significant place. It was produced as a portion of a more pretentious work which covers the entire history of the state. This portion is the first of its kind to be based upon the new material recently made accessible and it points the way for similar enterprises in research and history writing for which there is great need in the whole Mississippi valley. It is to be hoped that the author in his new location will establish a research laboratory similar to the one which has produced such admirable works as the present volume, and that he may begin anew his invaluable researches in the almost unworked fields that lie open before all students of history in the west.

O. G. LIBBY

The autobiography of Andrew Carnegie. With illustrations. (New York and Boston : Houghton Mifflin company, 385 p. \$5.00)

An autobiography of a man who occupied as prominent a place in American life for nearly half a century as did Andrew Carnegie cannot fail to attract the attention of anyone interested in the slightest degree in the events of a period so filled with pregnant possibilities. Yet the evaluation of such a work by the historian must be based on certain factors which do not necessarily appeal to the general reader. The former looks for statements or even for hints which will give him a better comprehension of the forces which he seeks to understand and perchance to enumerate and interpret; he feels that he has a certain right to find explained forces which hitherto have been evidenced only by surface mani-